

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 4**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Hueso**

January 14, 2013

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 4—Relative to the United States-Mexico border.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 4, as introduced, Hueso. The United States-Mexico border.

This measure would urge the federal government, including the Department of Homeland Security and the General Services Administration, to fund necessary improvements at the San Ysidro and Calexico Ports of Entry.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The United States, Canada, and Mexico signed the  
2 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1993 to foster  
3 trade among the three countries, and improve global  
4 competitiveness; and  
5 WHEREAS, Trade between the United States and Mexico has  
6 more than quintupled since the implementation of NAFTA, totaling  
7 \$500 billion in bilateral trade in 2011; and  
8 WHEREAS, Mexico continues to be California's number one  
9 export market with \$25.8 billion in goods exported to Mexico in  
10 2011, accounting for 16 percent of all California exports; and  
11 WHEREAS, Ninety-nine percent of trade between California  
12 and Mexico is carried by trucks; and  
13 WHEREAS, The SANDAG 2050 Comprehensive Freight  
14 Gateway Study projects that the nearly two million trucks that

1 crossed the California-Mexico border in 2007 will increase to  
2 nearly five million trucks in 2050. In 2011, over \$33.5 billion in  
3 goods moved between Mexico and the United States at the Otay  
4 Mesa Port of Entry and at the Tecate Port of Entry; and

5 WHEREAS, The San Diego and Imperial Counties' border  
6 traffic congestion and delays cost the U.S. and Mexican economies  
7 an estimated \$8.63 billion in gross output and more than 73,900  
8 jobs in 2007; and

9 WHEREAS, New land port of entry and improvement projects  
10 are under federal jurisdiction with significant influence over local  
11 communities; and

12 WHEREAS, The San Ysidro–Puerta Mexico Land Port of Entry  
13 is the busiest port of entry between the United States and Mexico  
14 and is undergoing a major reconfiguration and expansion project;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The Otay Mesa–Mesa de Otay Land Port of Entry  
17 has plans for the expansion and modernization of passenger and  
18 commercial inspection facilities; and

19 WHEREAS, The Calexico West Port of Entry also has plans to  
20 renovate and expand the facility to process and expand its operation  
21 for pedestrians and automobiles; and

22 WHEREAS, The collaboration between federal, state, and local  
23 agencies is essential for the development of border infrastructure  
24 projects and security; and

25 WHEREAS, The General Accountability Office and the  
26 Department of Homeland Security estimate that \$6 billion in border  
27 infrastructure is needed to fulfill their mission of preventing  
28 unlawful entry and smuggling while facilitating legitimate trade  
29 and tourism; and

30 WHEREAS, The need for improved border capacity and  
31 efficiency comes at a time when traditional federal funding is  
32 scarce and increasingly difficult to obtain; and

33 WHEREAS, Since February 2009, Congress and the Obama  
34 administration have not funded border infrastructure projects; and

35 WHEREAS, The San Ysidro project has a stated funding gap  
36 of \$285 million and the Calexico project needs \$318 million to  
37 complete construction; and

38 WHEREAS, Various agencies of the United States, including  
39 the Department of Homeland Security and the General Services  
40 Administration, should work with Congress to provide funding to

1 support these border infrastructure investments; now, therefore,  
2 be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
4 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the federal  
5 government, including the Department of Homeland Security and  
6 the General Services Administration, to fund necessary  
7 improvements at the San Ysidro and Calexico Ports of Entry; and  
8 be it further

9 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
10 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
11 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the  
12 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and  
13 Representative from California in the Congress of the United  
14 States.

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